What is claimed:

1. A guide wire structure for insertion into an interior space defined by a wall, the guide wire comprising a continuous, unitary wire comprising a first segment, a second segment, and a third segment disposed intermediate the first and second segments, wherein the third segment has a bending moment of inertia less than a bending moment of inertia of the first segment and less than a bending moment of inertia of the second segment.

2. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the third segment has a cross-sectional area less than the cross sectional areas of the first segment and the second segment.

3. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first, second, and third segments have circular cross sections.

4. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first, second and third segments have non-circular cross-sections.

5. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the wire is formed of Nitinol.

6. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 further comprising an indicator associated with at least one of the segments for differentiating the segments.

7. The guide wire structure of Claim 7 wherein the indicator comprises a visual indicator.

END 5244

8. The guide wire structure of Claim 7 wherein the indicator comprises a marking associated with at least one of the segments.

9. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 comprising a sleeve encircling at least one of the first and second segments.

10. The guide wire structure of claim 1 comprising a sleeve encircling each of the first and second segments.

11. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 comprising a sleeve encircling the first segment and a sleeve encircling the second segment, wherein the first and second sleeves are visually distinguishable.

12. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the combined length of the first segment, the second segment, and the third segment is at least about 7 feet.

13. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the combined length of the first segment, the second segment, and the third segment is between about 7 feet and about 25 feet.

14. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the combined length of the first segment, the second segment, and the third segment is at least about 20 feet.

15. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the first segment has a length of at least about 6 feet, and a generally circular cross-section having a diameter of between about 0.011 inch to about 0.035 inch.

16. The guide wire structure of Claim 15 wherein the third segment has a diameter of between about 0.005 inch and about 0.010 inch.

END 5244

17. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the first segment has a length of at least about 6 feet, wherein the first segment has maximum cross-sectional dimension of no more than about 0.035 inch, and wherein the third segment has a maximum cross-sectional dimension of no more than about 0.010 inch.

18. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the third segment is bent.

19. The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the third segment provides an elastic hinge.

20. A guide wire structure comprising:

a first segment of a generally constant diameter;
a second segment of generally constant diameter;
a third segment having a generally constant diameter less than that of the first and second segment diameters;
a tapered segment of decreasing diameter extending from the first segment to the third segment; and
a tapered segment of decreasing diameter extending from the second segment to the third segment.

21. A method of using a guide wire comprising the steps of:

providing a guide wire comprising a unitary wire having reduced bending moment of inertia at a position spaced from the ends of the guide wire;

providing a medical device having a channel;

bending the wire at the position of the reduced bending moment of inertia; and

END 5244

inserting the bend in the wire into the channel of the medical device.

22. The method of Claim 21 further comprising the step of passing the bend in the wire through a distal end of the medical device.

23. The method of Claim 21 further comprising the step of advancing the medical device along the wire.

END 5244